

## **Public Comments: April 28, 2011 Meeting**

### **Joann Hayes' written comments 4/28/2011**

I live on Lake Monona at Squaw Bay. Over the last two decades lake levels have risen dramatically after any rain storm. If we get 1" of rain, Lake Monona rises by 3". More and more county paving on the watershed and its hydric soils has dramatically added to runoff.

Since we don't want to impose any responsibility on the pavers and fillers, we must allow lake levels to be held at much lower levels. Every year we lose more of our shoreline due to high water and wave action exacerbated by the high water. This year we bought a new pier (\$14,000) to allow us to set legs 10" higher than our old one. Because of the runoff increase, you cannot use data numbers from 1979!

The upside has been the no wake zone on Squaw Bay. What a pleasure to paddle and join the hundreds of others enjoying quiet water. And no 6 am roar of overpowered bass boats (racing up the Bay to kill fish in the name of fishing tournaments). This quiet is almost worth the flooding.

Ideally, we'd like to see Squaw Bay be a permanent no wake zone. I am a wakeboarder too, and have plenty of room elsewhere on the Lake.

The weed cutting has been great the last two years. This helps move water too.

Thanks.

### **Si Widstrand Comments**

- Madison resident
- Thanked Kevin Connors for his efforts
- Concerned about the impact of excessive and prolonged high water levels on Lake Mendota and Cherokee Marsh
- The 1979 orders were OK, recognized wetlands damage above the max, but we have too much rainfall to meet the orders
- Right to push water through the system (holding Lake Monona high)
- Need to remove constrictions downstream to push water effectively
- Need to floodproof structures built in wetlands and floodplains
- Should bring Lake Mendota down to midrange before dropping Lake Monona
- Lake Mendota is the only place to store water so it should be kept low

### **Fritz Froncke Comments:**

- Has lived his entire life on the lakes
- Have to lower Lake Mendota to protect Lake Monona because Lake Mendota is the only place to store water
- Don't need to worry about fish, they will be fine.
- Lake Monona structures are getting first floor flooding
- Need to plan for the 100-year flood
- If lower water levels on Lake Mendota affect navigation up by Hwy 113, then dredge. The cost of home flooding could be used instead to have a dredging program on a regular basis

### **Rob Luther Comments:**

- If water levels are lowered, it is a reversible process
- Lowering water levels would show the navigation problems and areas that would be inaccessible
- Lowering Lake Mendota:
  - If Northern Pike spawning is affected – make changes to or add rearing ponds
  - If navigational issues occur up near Hwy 113, provide a dredging program and might request funding from affected business
- Lowering Lake Monona:
  - Piers and hoists would have to be changed – this would occur once and it is better than replacing or chasing pier sections during floods
  - Medium high water with high winds has 2-3' chop that takes out piers also
- If water levels could be lowered for a trial period, there would be public outcry – navigational hazards could be marked or removed
- Lowering could be a trial – what isn't reversible is:
  - Time lost on the due to slow no wake
  - Property damage
  - Loss to businesses due to no boat traffic
  - Time debating this issue
- Suggestions for the Advisory Group:
  - Keep in mind that lake Monona gets a double whammy because of Lake Wingra's discharge
  - Have gage stations established at numerous points so sheriff boat staff can rapidly and consistently communicate with each other
- Questions to YLAG:
  - Does YLAG have the authority to direct lake levels to change?
  - If so, how soon can it be done?
- Operator, etc. must consider the source of complaints that are made about water levels. If someone in Bell Isle ever complains of low levels – Better Listen!
- How were summer minimum and winter minimum set?

- Must treat the four lakes as a system - isn't that in direct conflict with the rule keeping Lake Mendota high for spawning?
- We are heading for yet another summer of high water and boating restrictions. Could we try a trial period of lowering water levels.